WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   Image processing apparatus comprising:

an image processing unit for performing predetermined

5   image processing upon first image data so as to obtain second

image data;

an image storage unit for storing said second image data;

and

an image combining unit for combining a plurality of image

10 data; wherein:

when third image data on which said predetermined image

processing will be performed includes a portion different from

said first image data, said image processing unit performs said

predetermined image processing upon said different portion

15 between said third image data and said first image data so as

to generate fourth image data; and

said image combining unit combines, of said second image

data stored in said image storage unit, a portion corresponding

to said third image data other than said different portion with

20 said fourth image data.

2.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein:

when one of said first image data and said third image

25 data can be subjected to processing, said image processing unit

performs a color correction process and/or a RIP process upon said image data that can be subjected to processing.

3.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

when one of said first image data and said third image data is drawing data described in a drawing language, said image processing unit further performs an unfolding process upon said drawing data so as to unfold said drawing data and thereby obtain one of said second image data and said fourth image data.

4.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an accounting unit for performing an accounting process for at least said image processing upon said different portion.

5.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein:

said different portion is measured by page, and said accounting unit calculates a fee to be charged in said accounting process based on the number of pages of said different portion.

6.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein:

said accounting unit calculates a fee to be charged in

said accounting process based on an area of said different portion.

7.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein:

said image processing uses processing data, and said accounting unit does accounting for said processing data used in said image processing.

8.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein:

when said image processing is performed upon said different portion a plurality of times, said accounting unit performs said accounting process for all or a part of second-time and subsequent ones of said image processing.

9.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said image processing unit compares said first image data with said third image data so as to detect said different portion.

10.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

when said image processing is performed upon said first image data and said third image data by page, said image

processing unit detects, as said different portion, pages including a difference between said first image data and said third image data.

5   11.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

when said image processing is performed upon said first image data and said third image data by sheet of paper, said image processing unit detects, as said different portion, sheets
10   of paper including a difference between said first image data and said third image data.

12.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein:
15   when said difference in one page results in a difference in all of subsequent pages, said image processing unit detects, as said different portion, all of said page including said difference and said subsequent pages.

20   13.   Image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein:

when said difference in one sheet of paper results in a difference in all of subsequent sheets of paper, said image processing unit detects, as said different portion, all of said
25   sheet of paper including said difference and said subsequent

sheets of paper.

14.　An image processing method comprising:

performing predetermined image processing upon first

5　image data so as to obtain second image data;

storing said second image data; and

combining a plurality of image data; wherein:

when third image data on which said predetermined image

processing will be performed includes a portion different from

10　said first image data, said predetermined image processing is

performed upon said different portion between said third image

data and said first image data so as to generate fourth image

data; and

of said stored second image data, a portion corresponding

15　to said third image data other than said different portion is

combined with said fourth image data.

15.　An image processing method according to Claim 14,

wherein:

20　when one of said first image data and said third image

data can be subjected to processing, a color correction process

and/or a RIP process are performed upon said image data that

can be subjected to processing.

25　16.　An image processing method according to Claim 14,

wherein:

when one of said first image data and said third image data is drawing data described in a drawing language, an unfolding process upon said drawing data is further performed to unfold said drawing data and thereby obtain one of said second image data and said fourth image data.

17.   An image processing method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

performing an accounting process for at least said image processing upon said different portion.

18.   An image processing method according to Claim 14, wherein:

when said image processing is performed upon said first image data and said third image data by page, said image processing unit detects, as said different portion, pages including a difference between said first image data and said third image data.

19.   An image processing method according to Claim 14, wherein:

when said image processing is performed upon said first image data and said third image data by sheet of paper, said image processing unit detects, as said different portion, sheets

of paper including a difference between said first image data
and said third image data.